

File: Eva_1903_01_14.doc

[2009 February 4: typed by IB]

[2009 February 11: edited & checked against MS by IB]

Eva Hall to Aubrey Hall, 14 January [1903]

GPO Perth

Jan 14th 1902¹

My dear Aub

I think you have owed me a letter for some time but even if you wrote per *Nemesis* my letter is probably careering over the Blackwood thickets & after they have re-addressed it to Yerriminup & May wakes up to the fact that I *might* like to have it — I can calculate on reading it (with luck) one month from present date.

I think I wrote & told you that I had got out of going to Yerriminup while the gay people of the house took their holiday & as everyone else is equally well satisfied it is [?alright] — Amy, George & Winifred are now in Adelaide, I don't think they intend going any further than Melbourne.

I spent the last few days with Georgie & yesterday she & I went to see Maude Geyer, we found Mrs Spurling there & spent a jolly afternoon, they were both very much taken with little John Peel who performed only his *best* tricks for their benefit. Mrs Spurling told us that Grandma Hall used to admire herself (& really did look handsome) in a certain hat with beautiful feathers & it appears that the old tyrant (*she* didn't call him that) didn't approve of it, so one day when she was out *he* put it on the fire & when she tearfully remonstrated he replied in his grandest manner "Madam I have burnt the bone of contention" — the old lady seemed to enjoy the old time joke & I think really lives chiefly in the past.

To be more up to date I must tell you something of Mrs Withnell, the other day Nellie Spurling flippantly remarked to her "that as no one else seemed to come forward she would have to marry *Jock*", so the old woman said rather savagely "I hope not my dear you'd make such a very or-di-nary pair", poor old Nellie collapsed.

¹ Dated 1902, but the postmark is '03'

Poor old Aunt Dora seems very unhappy & I think there will be a few changes made in Leslie's household shortly, but not a word of this to anyone.

Fancy poor Charlie Angelo was buried yesterday! only 25 — I saw him just before Xmas & introduced him to Georgie & Hubert, he seemed quite well then & I heard nothing of his illness since, so it was probably sudden — I know they couldn't pass him for the Bank on acct of heart trouble — his poor Mother.

Mr Teesdale & S Mackay leave tomorrow for North, the former has been here several times & last night went with our party of 8 to the Circus. Some parts of it were most enjoyable, the horses (2 of them) jumping over 6 feet high with such ease too & great feats of horsemanship by a young Javanese, who rode 2 horses at once full canter round the ring, he stood with one foot on each of their hindquarters & then helped a girl up first on to his foot then his knee & so on until she was standing on his shoulders & they went full [? tare] all the time. The strong man too Herr Pagel was a very interesting item — he lifted a weight of 256 lbs in one hand & straightened his arm until he raised it right above his head, then he laid down on his back & slowly raised himself (not with the weight) till his weight was thrown on his hands at the back of him & his feet & they placed a sort of shelf on his chest & knees, & piled all the weights they could find on this & 6 men as well, so he was supporting 1800 lbs & finally he lifted a horse & carried him up & down a ladder — oh! I forgot to mention his going into the Lions cage, I didn't like that part of it but felt too fascinated not to look & he really bluffs the lion & takes hold of him roughly & then shows one his horrible claws & teeth, when he pulled his mouth open the great beast roared & growled but he soon quieted him again.

Sam is taking us tonight to hear Melba! a sort of farewell treat & a real luxury as the tickets are a guinea each — I expect to be entranced but will tell you all about it when I write next.

Duncan & George McRae & Teesy had tea with us one night last week & afterwards Ping Pong & Pianola, the latter is marvellous – oh C M Straker came too, he is having a very good time — I haven't seen anything of Mr Rolland this time, but I believe he spent his Xmas at Rottnest. I saw Leslie & Dot for a few minutes, the latter has grown very stout but looks well.

Is my "bike" still with you? I wish you would realise on it for me as I am in want of the money I wish Hadly had taken it to Broome & could have perhaps easily disposed of it there. I should be glad of £7 or £8 for it as directly if I wish to go to Cundenup I won't have money enough to pay my expenses. Ernest told me he refunded the £5 you advanced on it else I wouldn't dare approach you on the subject.

Write soon & tell me the news. I think Blanche Warburton might come back with me. I am going to Mrs Roe tomorrow for a week or 2. Kind love to self & Aunt & I hope she is keeping well. Miss [?Stancey] came to Maude's for one night & is sticking to her like a plaster ever since. Verschuer is in Perth just now.

Yours ever

Eva